

ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS AREA METHODOLOGY

PUERTO RICO MUNICIPIO TOTAL POPULATION ESTIMATES

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Census Bureau produces yearly estimates of population totals for all counties in the United States and Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is not subdivided into counties, but does have a comparable governmental subdivision called a municipio. Work that was carried out to produce the July 1, 2004 estimates for the municipios of Puerto Rico is described below.

THE METHOD

For the post Census 2000 period, an agreement was reached between the U.S. Census Bureau and the Puerto Rico Planning Board to explore alternative methods for producing the municipio estimates. Until this research was complete, the plan was to produce the annual municipio estimates by updating the method used in the 1990s with information from Census 2000. When this update was completed, however, the implied changes were found to deviate unreasonably from the change observed during the 1990s. Therefore, an interim set of estimates was produced by extrapolating the growth trends of each municipio between 1990 and 2000 and then controlling to the corresponding change in the Commonwealth's estimated total population. This method will be used until research on alternative methods can be completed.

Therefore, as with last year's estimates, the July 1, 2004 municipio estimates of total population were produced in the following manner:

1. For each municipio, the 10-year growth rate between 1990 and 2000 was calculated under the assumption of a constant annual growth rate.
2. The resulting growth rates were applied to the population from Census 2000 for each municipio in order to estimate the change in the population for five periods:
 - April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2000
 - July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2001
 - July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2002
 - July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2003
 - July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004
3. The estimates of change were controlled to the corresponding change in the Commonwealth total population estimates (released December 2004).
4. These estimates of population change were applied to the population totals at the beginning of the estimation period to arrive at the final population estimates for July 1, 2000, July 1, 2001, July 1, 2002, July 1, 2003, and for July 1, 2004.